



AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Original) A peelable stenciling ink for imprinting a surface of an article by applying said ink to said article surface, said ink comprising;

i. a solvent,

ii. a dye dispersable in said solvent to form a dye-solvent solution, and

iii. a film-forming substance soluble in said dye-solvent solution and hardenable into a solid film upon evaporation of said solvent from said ink, said solid film being peelable from said article surface.

12. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said dye-solvent solution is penetratable into said article surface.

13. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said solid film formed by said film-forming substance is peelable from said article surface.

14. (Original) The ink of Claim 13 wherein said film-forming substance is a polymer.

15. (Original) The ink of Claim 13 wherein said film-forming substance is a resin.

16. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 further including a release agent for facilitating peelability of said solid film from said article surface.

17. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said solvent is further defined as being able to partially dissolve said article surface.

18. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said solvent is further defined as being able to swell said article surface.

19. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said dye comprises from about two percent to about nine percent by weight of said ink.

20. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said film-forming substance comprises from about eleven percent to about forty-six percent by weight of said ink.

21. (Original) The ink of Claim 11 wherein said solid film has a thickness of greater than about two percent of a non-evaporated layer of said ink.

1 22. (Original) A peelable stenciling ink for imprinting and dyeing a surface of an article
2 by applying said ink to said article surface, said ink comprising;

3 a. a solvent,

4 b. a dye dispersed in said solvent to form a dye-solvent solution capable of
5 penetrating an article surface, and

6 c. a film-forming substance soluble in said dye-solvent solution and capable
7 of holding said dye-solvent solution in contact with said article surface, and hardenable into
8 a solid, flexible film upon evaporation of said solvent from said ink, said solid film being
9 peelable from said article surface.

10 23. (Original) The ink of Claim 22 wherein said solvent consists at least in part of
11 water.

12 24. (Original) The ink of Claim 23 wherein said film-forming substance is soluble in
13 water.

14 25. (Original) The ink of Claim 24 wherein said film-forming substance consists at
15 least in part of hydroxyethyl cellulose.

16 26. (Original) The ink of Claim 24 wherein said film-forming substance consists at least
17 in part of polyvinyl alcohol.

18 27. (Original) The ink of Claim 22 wherein said solvent is a hydrocarbon.

19 28. (Original) The ink of Claim 27 wherein said film-forming substance is a polymer.

20 29. (Original) The ink of Claim 28 further including a release agent for moderating
21 adherence between said article surface and said hardened film.

22 30. (Original) The ink of Claim 28 wherein said solvent is further defined as comprising
23 about 45 percent of xylene and about 11 percent of n-butanol, relative to the total weight of
24 said ink.

25 31. (Original) The ink of Claim 30 wherein said film-forming polymer is further defined
26 as comprising about 22 percent of ethyl cellulose, relative to the total weight of said ink.

1 32. (Original) The ink of Claim 31 wherein said dye is further defined as comprising
2 about 5.6 percent of the total weight of said ink.

3 33. (Original) The ink of Claim 32 wherein said dye is further defined as being an azo
4 dye.

5 34. (Original) The ink of Claim 33 further including a release agent.

6 35. (Original) The ink of Claim 34 wherein said release agent is further defined as
7 including about 11 percent mineral oil, relative to the total weight of said ink.

8 36. (Original) The ink of Claim 35 wherein said release agent is further defined as
9 including about 5.5 percent castor oil, relative to the total weight of said ink.

10 37. (Original) Peelable dye-stenciling ink for imprinting and dyeing an article surface
11 by applying said ink to said article surface, said ink being a viscous, paste-like liquid
12 comprising;

13 a. about 46 to 88 parts by weight of a solvent,

14 b. about 2-10 parts by weight of a dye dispersable in said solvent to form a
15 dye solvent solution capable of penetrating an article surface, and

16 c. about 11 to 46 parts by weight of a film-forming polymer soluble in said dye-
17 solvent solution and capable of holding said dye-solvent solution in contact with said article
18 surface, and hardenable into a solid, flexible film upon evaporation of solvent from said ink,
19 said solid film being peelable from said article surface.

20 38. (Original) The ink of Claim 37 wherein said solvent is selected from the group
21 consisting of water, ethanol, n-butanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, iso-butanol, amyl
22 alcohol, benzyl alcohol, hexane, cyclohexanone, methyl cyclohexanone, methyl ethyl ketone,
23 methyl isobutyl ketone, acetone, benzene, chloroform, methylene chloride, carbon
24 tetrachloride, ethylene dichloride, -butyl acetate, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, isopropyl
25 acetate, amyl acetate, methyl cellosolve acetate, cellosolve acetate, benzyl acetate, methyl
26 formate, ethyl formate, ethyl lactate, butyl lactate, ethylene glycol, monoethyl ether, ethyl

1 ether, methyl cellosolve, cellosolve, butyl cellosolve, toluene, xylene, tetralin, dioxane and
2 pine oil.

3 39. (Original) The ink of Claim 37 wherein said dye is selected from the group
4 consisting of azo, monoazo, trisazo, polyazo, diazo, disazo, azoic, stilbene, diphenylmethane,
5 triarylmethane, acridine, azine, ketone imine, methane, nitro, nitroso, oxazine, thiazine,
6 sulphur, lactone, indigoid, quinoline, methine, thiazole, indamine, xanthene, phthalocyanine,
7 and anthraquinone.

8 40. (Original) The ink of Claim 37 wherein said dye is selected from the group
9 consisting of acid, mordant, natural dyes, food, leather, direct, reactive, solvent, pigment,
10 basic, spirit oil, vat and disperse dyes.

11 41. (Original) The ink of Claim 37 wherein said film-forming polymer is selected from
12 the group consisting of natural resins, rubber derivatives, and cellulose derivatives; including
13 cellulose esters such as cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate-butyrate and
14 cellulose propionate and cellulose ethers such as methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and
15 carboxymethyl cellulose, varnishes, synthetic resins, alkyd resins and those resins formed by
16 condensation polymerization such as phenolic resins, amino resins, polyesters,
17 polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxides and polyethers; polyethylene, polypropylene,
18 polyisobutylene, fluorocarbon polymers, polyvinyl acetate and its derivatives such as polyvinyl
19 alcohol, vinyl polymers and copolymers, vinyl chloride polymers and copolymers,
20 polyvinylidene chloride, polystyrene, acrylic polymers, coumarone-indene polymers, polyvinyl
21 ethers, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinyl amines, fluorine-containing polymers and divinyl polymers;
22 epoxy resins and synthetic rubbers and silicones and their derivatives.

23 42. (Original) The ink of Claim 37 further including a release agent for moderating
24 adhesion of said solid film to said article surface.

25 43. (Original) The ink of Claim 42 wherein said release agent is selected from the
26 group consisting of mineral oil, linseed oil, castor oil, silicone polymers, synthetic waxes,
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1 unsaturated fatty acid-monoamides, polyethylene glycol monostearate, fatty bisamides, and
2 various plasticizers.

3 44. (New) A method for imprinting indicia markings onto a surface of an object, the
4 markings penetrating beneath said object surface to thereby impact abrasion and wear
5 resistance to said markings, said method comprising the steps of;

6 a. securing in fluid-tight contact to said object surface a stencil plate having
7 through a thickness dimension thereof openings having outline shapes corresponding to
8 indicia to be imprinted on said object surface by a semi-liquid peelable ink, said ink
9 comprising,

- 10 i. a solvent
11 ii. a dye solutrilized in said solvent, and
12 iii. a film forming substance,

13 b. applying said ink to an obverse side of said stencil sheet and through said
14 opening through said stencil sheet onto said object surface, said applied ink extending
15 beyond said open areas onto adjacent areas of said stencil sheet to thereby form a
16 continuous layer having an outer surface which overlies said openings and adjacent areas of
17 said stencil sheet, and an inner surface which contacts said object surface,

18 c. allowing sufficient time for said dye to penetrate said object surface,

19 d. allowing sufficient time for said solvent to evaporate and cause said film-
20 forming substance to form a solid film peelable from said object surface, and

21 e. peeling said stencil plate and said solid film *en masse* from said object
22 surface thereby exposing said object surface bearing said indicia markings imprinted on and
23 dye-penetrated into said object surface.

24 45. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said stencil sheet is conformed in fluid-tight
25 contact with said object surface by means of a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer between
26 said object surface and a reverse side of said stencil sheet.

1 46. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said film-forming substance is further defined
2 as forming upon said evaporation of said solvent a film which is sufficiently lightly adhered to
3 said object surface to be peelable therefrom without damaging said object surface, and
4 sufficiently tightly adhered to said stencil sheet to remain attached thereto when said stencil
5 sheet is peeled from said object surface.

6 47. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said film-forming substance is further
7 defined as a polymer soluble in said dye-solvent solution.

8 48. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein the material of which said object surface
9 is made is further defined as being a leather.

10 49. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein the material of which said object surface
11 is made is further defined as being a polymer.

12 50. (New) The method of Claim 49 wherein said polymer is further defined as being a
13 thermoplastic.

14 51. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said applied layer of ink has a thickness
15 ranging from about 0.5 millimeters to about 10 millimeters.

16 52. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said applied layer of ink has a thickness
17 ranging from about 1 millimeter to about 5 millimeters.

18 53. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said solid film has a thickness ranging from
19 about 5 percent to about 25 percent of the thickness of said ink layer when said ink layer is
20 wet.

21 54. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said ink is further defined as comprising;
22 a. a solvent,
23 b. a dye dispersable in said solvent to form a dye-solvent solution, and
24 c. a film-forming substance soluble in said dye-solvent solution and
25 hardenable into a solid film upon evaporation of said solvent from said ink, said solid film
26 being peelable from said article surface.

1 55. (New) The method of Claim 54 wherein said dye-solvent solution is penetratable
2 into said article surface.

3 56. (New) The method of Claim 54 wherein said solid film formed by said film-forming
4 substance is peelable from said article surface.

5 57. (New) The method of Claim 56 wherein said film-forming substance is a polymer.

6 58. (New) The method of Claim 56 wherein said film-forming substance is a resin.

7 59. (New) The method of Claim 44 further including a release agent for facilitating
8 peelability of said solid film from said article surface.

9 60. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said solvent is further defined as being able
10 to partially dissolve said article surface.

11 61 (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said solvent is further defined as being able
12 to swell said article surface.

13 62. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said dye comprises from about two percent
14 to about nine percent by weight of said ink.

15 63. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said film-forming substance comprises from
16 about eleven percent to about forty-six percent by weight of said ink.

17 64. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said solid film has a thickness of greater
18 than about two percent of a non-evaporated layer of said ink.

19 65. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said ink is further defined as comprising;
20 a. a solvent,
21 b. a dye dispersed in said solvent to form a dye-solvent solution capable of
22 penetrating an article surface, and
23 c. a film-forming substance soluble in said dye-solvent solution and capable
24 of holding said dye-solvent solution in contact with said article surface, and hardenable into
25 a solid, flexible film upon evaporation of said solvent from said ink, said solid film being
26 peelable from said article surface.

1 66. (New) The method of Claim 65 wherein said solvent consists at least in part of
2 water.

3 67. (New) The method of Claim 66 wherein said film-forming substance is soluble in
4 water.

5 68. (New) The method of Claim 67 wherein said film-forming substance consists at least
6 in part of hydroxyethyl cellulose.

7 69. (New) The method of Claim 67 wherein said film-forming substance consists at least
8 in part of polyvinyl alcohol.

9 70. (New) The method of Claim 65 wherein said solvent is a hydrocarbon.

10 71. (New) The method of Claim 70 wherein said film-forming substance is a polymer.

11 72. (New) The method of Claim 71 further including a release agent for moderating
12 adherence between said article surface and said hardened film.

13 73. (New) The method of Claim 71 wherein said solvent is further defined as comprising
14 about 45 percent of xylene and about 11 percent of n-butanol, relative to the total weight of
15 said ink.

16 74 (New) The method of Claim 73 wherein said film-forming polymer is further defined
17 as comprising about 22 percent of ethyl cellulose, relative to the total weight of said ink.

18 75. (New) The method of Claim 74 wherein said dye is further defined as comprising
19 about 5.6 percent of the total weight of said ink.

20 76. (New) The method of Claim 75 wherein said dye is further defined as being an azo
21 dye.

22 77. (New) The method of Claim 76 further including a release agent.

23 78. (New) The method of Claim 77 wherein said release agent is further defined as
24 including about 11 percent mineral oil, relative to the total weight of said ink.

25 79. (New) The method of Claim 78 wherein said release agent is further defined as
26 including about 5.5 percent castor oil, relative to the total weight of said ink.

1 80. (New) The method of Claim 44 wherein said ink is further defined as being a viscous,
2 paste-like liquid comprising;

- 3 a. about 46 to 88 parts by weight of a solvent,
- 4 b. about 2-10 parts by weight of a dye dispersable in said solvent to form a
- 5 dye solvent solution capable of penetrating an article surface, and
- 6 c. about 11 to 46 parts by weight of a film-forming polymer soluble in said dye-
- 7 solvent solution and capable of holding said dye-solvent solution in contact with said article
- 8 surface, and hardenable into a solid, flexible film upon evaporation of solvent from said ink,
- 9 said solid film being peelable from said article surface.

10 81. (New) The method of Claim 80 wherein said solvent is selected from the group
11 consisting of water, ethanol, n-butanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, iso-butanol, amyl
12 alcohol, benzyl alcohol, hexane, cyclohexanone, methyl cyclohexanone, methyl ethyl ketone,
13 methyl isobutyl ketone, acetone, benzene, chloroform, methylene chloride, carbon
14 tetrachloride, ethylene dichloride, -butyl acetate, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, isopropyl
15 acetate, amyl acetate, methyl cellosolve acetate, cellosolve acetate, benzyl acetate, methyl
16 formate, ethyl formate, ethyl lactate, butyl lactate, ethylene glycol, monoethyl ether, ethyl
17 ether, methyl cellosolve, cellosolve, butyl cellosolve, toluene, xylene, tetralin, dioxane and
18 pine oil.

19 82. (New) The method of Claim 80 wherein said dye is selected from the group
20 consisting of azo, monoazo, trisazo, polyazo, diazo, disazo, azoic, stilbene, diphenylmethane,
21 triarylmethane, acridine, azine, ketone imine, methane, nitro, nitroso, oxazine, thiazine,
22 sulphur, lactone, indigoid, quinoline, methine, thiazole, indamine, xanthene, phthalocyanine,
23 and anthraquinone.

24 83. (New) The method of Claim 80 wherein said dye is selected from the group
25 consisting of acid, mordant, natural dyes, food, leather, direct, reactive, solvent, pigment,
26 basic, spirit oil, vat and disperse dyes.

1 84. (New) The method of Claim 80 wherein said film-forming polymer is selected from
2 the group consisting of natural resins, rubber derivatives, and cellulose derivatives; including
3 cellulose esters such as cellulose nitrate, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate-butyrate and
4 cellulose propionate and cellulose ethers such as methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose and
5 carboxymethyl cellulose, varnishes, synthetic resins, alkyd resins and those resins formed by
6 condensation polymerization such as phenolic resins, amino resins, polyesters,
7 polyurethanes, polyamides, epoxides and polyethers; polyethylene, polypropylene,
8 polyisobutylene, fluorocarbon polymers, polyvinyl acetate and its derivatives such as polyvinyl
9 alcohol, vinyl polymers and copolymers, vinyl chloride polymers and copolymers,
10 polyvinylidene chloride, polystyrene, acrylic polymers, coumarone-indene polymers, polyvinyl
11 ethers, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinyl amines, fluorine-containing polymers and divinyl polymers;
12 epoxy resins and synthetic rubbers and silicones and their derivatives.

13 85. (New) The method of Claim 80 further including a release agent for moderating
14 adhesion of said solid film to said article surface.

15 86. (New) The method of Claim 85 wherein said release agent is selected from the
16 group consisting of mineral oil, linseed oil, castor oil, silicone polymers, synthetic waxes,
17 unsaturated fatty acid-monoamides, polyethylene glycol monostearate, fatty bisamides, and
18 various plasticizers.